

*Washington, DC -- Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today released the following statement regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) announcement of new requirements for the second phase of the ongoing efforts to remove toxic polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination in the Hudson River Superfund Site. As the former chairman of the New York State Assembly's Environmental Conservation Committee and as a member of Congress who serves on the Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee that oversees the EPA's budget, Hinchey has helped spearhead the effort to ensure the cleanup of the river would be paid for by General Electric (GE) which dumped as much as 1.3 million pounds of PCBs into the river from 1947-1977.*

"The EPA has laid out a set of requirements for the second phase of cleanup that I believe will help restore the health of the Hudson River as likely best we can given that this is a problem that began more than six decades ago. The EPA has made it clear to me that it will only allow capping in cases where it is absolutely necessary and I will stay in close contact with agency officials throughout this process to ensure that remains the case. We must not allow any corners to be cut in this process and based on my conversations with the EPA I believe that will not be an issue. With the promise to use all resources available to it, including legal action, I'm confident the EPA will be able to effectively manage and oversee the cleanup.

"Getting GE to clean-up the Hudson River has been a personal mission of mine for decades. Having grown up and lived along the river my whole life, I have a fond appreciation for what the river means to the people who live and work near and along its banks. The contamination of the river was shameful and the reluctance to swiftly clean up the mess was almost an even greater tragedy. Finally, under the leadership of President Obama's EPA led by Administrator Lisa Jackson and Regional Administrator Judith Enck we are seeing the commitment to a clean, healthy Hudson River that's been lacking for far too long. I am grateful for their actions and look forward to working closely with them as the cleanup continues."